

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-13 (cancelled)

Claim 14 (previously presented): A cholesterol-lowering therapy method, which method comprises administering a cholesterol-lowering amount of melagatran:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof to a patient in need of such therapy.

Claim 15 (cancelled)

Claim 16 (previously presented): The method of Claim 14 wherein the therapy results in a decrease in serum levels of cholesterol, low-density lipoproteins, very low-density lipoproteins, triglycerides and/or apolipoprotein B; and/or an increase in serum levels of high-density lipoproteins and/or apolipoprotein A-I.

Claims 17-18 (cancelled)

Claim 19 (currently amended): A cholesterol-lowering therapy method, which ~~The method of Claim 14, wherein the method comprises administering a~~ cholesterol-lowering amount of a prodrug of melagatran, wherein the prodrug is of the formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof to a patient in need of such therapy,
wherein R¹ represents linear or branched C₁₋₆ alkyl and the OH group replaces one of the
amidino hydrogens in Pab.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The method of Claim 19, wherein R¹ represents methyl, ethyl or propyl.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The method of Claim 20, wherein R¹ represents ethyl.

Claims 22-53 (cancelled)